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# Cheke Holo language

**Cheke Holo** (also called Maringe or Mari*n*e, A'ara, Holo, Kubonitu) is an Oceanic language spoken in the Solomon Islands. Its speakers live on Santa Isabel Island.

| Cheke Holo | |
|---|---|
| **Native to** | Central Solomon Islands |
| **Region** | Santa Isabel Island |
| **Native speakers** | 10,800 (1999)[1]<br>1,500 monolinguals (1999?)[2] |
| **Language family** | Austronesian<br>▪ Malayo-Polynesian<br>▪ Oceanic<br>▪ Northwest Solomonic<br>▪ New Georgia – Ysabel<br>▪ Ysabel<br>▪ East Isabel<br>▪ **Cheke Holo** |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | `mrn` |
| **Glottolog** | `chek1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chek1238)`[3] |

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## Phonology

The phonology of Cheke Holo shows some peculiarities, shared with other Santa Isabel languages, like the aspirated stops and the voiceless sonorants. The five-vowel system instead conforms to the prototypical system of the Oceanic area (White, Kokhonigita & Pulomana 1988). Boswell (2018:16) has /x/ rather than /ɣʰ/.

Consonant phonemes

| | | Labial | | Alveolar | | Palatal | | Velar | | Glottal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nasal | | m̥ | m | n̥ | n | ɲ̊ | ɲ | ŋ̊ | ŋ | |
| Stop | plain | p | b | t | d | t͡ʃ | d͡ʒ | k | g | ʔ |
| | aspirated | pʰ | | tʰ | | | | kʰ | | |
| Fricative | plain | f | v | s | z | | | | ɣ | h |
| | aspirated | | | | | | | | ɣʰ | |
| Leteral | | | | l̥ | l | | | | | |
| Trill | | | | r̥ | r | | | | | |

**Vowel phonemes**

| | Front | Central | Back |
|---|---|---|---|
| **High** | i | | u |
| **Mid** | e | | o |
| **Low** | | a | |

# Morphosyntax

Verbs in Cheke Holo are marked neither for tense nor for person, although they can be prefixed with *fa-* (a causative marker) and they take enclitics. Among the possible clitics are the direct object pronouns, the completive aspect markers *hi* and *hila*, and the continuative aspect marker *u* (Boswell 2018).

Reduplication is commonly employed with verb roots to express iteration or intensification and as a valency changing device (from intransitive to transitive), although there are attested cases of adjective and (less so) noun reduplication (Boswell 2018). Different types of reduplications are possible in Cheke Holo:

- Full reduplication
  - /vra/ 'jump up' > /vravra/ 'be quick to act'
- Partial (or White's rule) reduplication
  - /bela/ 'wooden platform' > /beabela/ 'stack up firewood'
- Syllable reduplication
  - /nolo/ 'to walk' > /nonolo/ 'go walking about'
  - /kmokhu/ 'stop' > /kmokmohu/ 'continue to cease'
  - /fruni/ 'cover' > /fufruni/ 'cover completely' (when the second consonant of a cluster is /r/, this is dropped in the reduplicated syllable)

# Notes


1. Cheke Holo (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mrn/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Cheke Holo language (https://www.ethnologue.com/15/show_language/mrn) at *Ethnologue* (15th ed., 2005)

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Cheke Holo" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chek1238). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

# References

- Boswell, Fredrick Alvin (2018). *A grammar of Cheke Holo* (Doctoral thesis). LOT Publications (Leiden University). hdl:1887/67082 (https://hdl.handle.net/1887%2F67082). ISBN 978-94-6093-301-1.
- White, Geoffrey; Kokhonigita, Francis; Pulomana, Hugh (1988). *Cheke Holo (Maringe/Hograno) dictionary*. Pacific Linguistics Series C - No. 97. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. doi:10.15144/pl-c97 (https://doi.org/10.15144%2Fpl-c97). hdl:1885/145429 (https://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F145429). ISBN 0-85883-368-9.
- Palmer, Bill (2009). "Clause order and information structure in Cheke Holo". *Oceanic Linguistics*. **48** (1): 213–249. doi:10.1353/ol.0.0038 (https://doi.org/10.1353%2Fol.0.0038).

# External links

- Keha Tarai Mala Lao Legu Narone (http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/keha_tarai1934.html) Anglican devotional material in Cheke Holo (1934)
- Buka Tharai Ka Cheke Mari*n*e (http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Melanesia/cheke_holo_intro_MP.html) Portions of the Book of Common Prayer in Cheke Holo (1973) digitized by Richard Mammana

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